

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF ERICH HORN, ET AL

FOR: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR PERFORMING A TEST FOR ACCEPTABILITY
OF BANK NOTES BY AUTOMATIC VENDING MACHINES

AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Before examining the present application, please amend as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following section title before the first paragraph on the first page:

--FIELD OF THE INVENTION--

Please insert the following section title before the second paragraph on the first
page:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART--

Please insert the following section title before the second paragraph on the third
page:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Please insert the following section title before the first paragraph on page seven:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

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Please insert the following section title before the second paragraph on page seven, that is, before the paragraph beginning, "According to Fig. 1, * * *":

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims in "clean" format:

1. (Amended) A method for performing a test for acceptability in the acceptance of bank notes by automatic vending machines, the method comprising: feeding a bank note to a digitalization station via a transport unit, at least partially digitizing the bank note to create digitized data and comparing the digitized data with a stored data in a computer unit, which performs a determination of value, and renders an automatic decision regarding acceptability; if the automatic decision regarding acceptability is negative, generating an image of the digitized data in order to allow its visual inspection by a service employee, who then renders a final decision regarding acceptability.

2. (Amended) The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the digitizing of the bank note is accomplished by scanning.

3. (Amended) The method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising performing an image data comparison in form of data comparison.

4. (Amended) The method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising, if the automatic decision is negative, performing a detailed inspection of adjustable parameters, in order that a preliminary decision between a direct rejection of the bank note and a final decision by a service employee may be rendered automatically.

5. (Amended) The method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the service employee via keyboard input registers the final decision regarding acceptance.

6. (Amended) The method in accordance with claim 1 wherein, during the generating of the image, automatically marking the areas of deviation that prompted the negative automatic decision regarding acceptance.

7. (Amended) A device used in automatic vending machines to accept bank notes, with a test for acceptability, the device comprising: at least one unit for receiving a bank note, a transport/feed unit, a digitization unit, a computer unit, an image display unit, an input unit, and a unit for returning, advancing, collecting, and stacking the bank notes.

8. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 7, wherein the digitalization unit is a scanner.

9. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 7, wherein the digitalization unit is a digital camera.

10. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 7, wherein the image display unit is a monitor.

11. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 7, wherein the input unit is a keyboard.

12. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 7, further comprising supplementary signal units for optical and acoustic indicators.

Please add the following new claim:

13. (Newly Added) The device in accordance with claim 7, further comprising supplementary signal units for optical or acoustic indicators.

REMARKS

Applicants request entry of the present amendments that conform the claims to U.S. practice. No new matter is being introduced by this Amendment as antecedent support is set forth in the original specification and in the original claims. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made. The attached page is captioned "**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made.**"

Prosecution on the merits is respectfully requested.

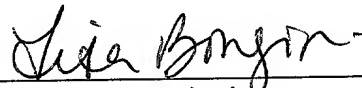
The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's Attorneys at the below-listed telephone number regarding this Preliminary Amendment or otherwise regarding the present application.

If there are any charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

ERICH HORN, ET AL

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MARKED UP VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

A marked-up version of the Claims is as follows:

1. (Marked up/Amended) ~~Procedure~~ A method for performing a test for acceptability in the acceptance of bank notes by automatic vending machines, the method comprising: wherein feeding a bank note is fed to a digitalization station via a transport unit, and is at least partially digitizing the bank note, wherein the to create digitized data obtained in this manner are and comparing the digitized data with a stored data in a computer unit, which performs a determination of value, and renders an automatic decision regarding acceptability; if the automatic decision regarding acceptability is negative, generating an image of the digitized data is generated in order to allow its visual inspection by a service employee, who then renders a final decision regarding acceptability.

2. (Marked up/Amended) The mMethod in accordance with claim 1, is ~~characterized in that wherein the digitizing of the bank note is accomplished by scanning.~~

3. (Marked up/Amended) The procedure-method in accordance with ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized by further comprising performing an image data comparison being performed in form of data comparison.~~

4. (Marked up/Amended) The mMethod in accordance with ~~one of the preceding claims~~ 1, is ~~characterized in that, further comprising, if the automatic decision is negative, performing a detailed inspection of adjustable parameters is performed, in order that a preliminary decision between a direct rejection of the bank note and a final decision by a service employee may be rendered automatically.~~

5. (Marked up/Amended) The mMethod in accordance with ~~one of the preceding claims~~ 1 is ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the service employee via keyboard input registers the final decision regarding acceptance.

6. (Marked up/Amended) The mMethod in accordance with ~~one of the preceding claims~~ 1 is ~~characterized in that wherein, during the generating of the image, in the imaging, automatically marking the areas of deviation that prompted the negative automatic decision regarding acceptance are automatically marked.~~

7. (Marked up/Amended) A dDevice used in automatic vending machines to accept bank notes, with a test for acceptability, the device in accordance with a method as described in one of the claims 1 through 6, comprising: at least one unit for receiving a bank note, a transport/feed unit, a digitization unit, a computer unit, an image display unit, an input unit, and a unit for returning, advancing, collecting, and stacking the bank notes.

8. (Marked up/Amended) The dDevice in accordance with claim 7, ~~is characterized in that~~wherein the digitalization unit is a scanner.

9. (Marked up/Amended) The dDevice in accordance with claim 7, ~~is characterized in that~~wherein the digitalization unit is a digital camera.

10. (Marked up/Amended) The dDevice in accordance with ~~one of the claims 7 through 9, is characterized in that~~wherein the image display unit is a monitor.

11. (Marked up/Amended) The dDevice in accordance with ~~one of the claims 7 through 10, is characterized in that~~wherein the input unit is a keyboard.

12. (Marked up/Amended) The dDevice in accordance with ~~one of the claims 7 through 11, is characterized in that the said device is equipped with~~further comprising supplementary signal units for optical and/or acoustic indicators.